

History Essay Rubric

The “A” Essay (19-20)

- contains a well-developed thesis
- is historically accurate throughout
- is very analytical
- effectively incorporates numerous concrete examples to support the thesis
- uses required concepts, each supported by numerous facts
- supports thesis with substantial relevant information
- is clearly organized and well written
- may contain some minor errors

The “B” Essay (17-18)

- contains an accurate thesis
- 2-3 concepts or 2 done very well, with 2-3 facts for each
- is more descriptive than analytical—has superficial analysis
- deals with only one aspect of the question in some depth
- may contain some historical inaccuracies
- supports the thesis on a limited basis
- shows evidence of acceptable organization and writing
- may contain a few errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay

The “C” Essay (15-16)

- presents a limited and/or under-developed thesis
- deals with one or two aspects of the question in a general way
- has simplistic explanations
- is mostly descriptive—no evidence of in-depth analysis
- contains information that is generally inaccurate or irrelevant
- lacks supporting examples
- may contain some historical inaccuracies

The “D” Essay (13-14)

- contains no solid thesis or a thesis which does not address the question
- exhibits inadequate or inaccurate understanding of the question
- contains little or no understanding of the question
- is historically inaccurate
- does not demonstrate any analysis whatsoever

The “F” Essay (11-12)

- Not an essay; significantly short
- Demonstrates no knowledge of the topic

Outline for Writing an Excellent History Essay

- I. What's my specific answer to the question? (Also known as your thesis statement)

- II. What major / general concepts will I use to support my answer?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- III. What specific historical references will I use to support concept #1?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

- IV. What specific historical references will I use to support concept #2?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

- V. What specific historical references will I use to support concept #3?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

- VI. Conclusion: Reinforce general ideas #1, #2, and #3